

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSI OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS Washington 25, D. C

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FOR THE PRESS

November 8, 1962 5:40 p.m.

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY SYLVESTER

The U.S. Government has confirmed, through aerial reconnaissance, that Medium Range Ballistic Missile and Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile equipment is being removed from Cuba. Within the next 24 hours it expects to obtain additional confirmation through the close alongside observation of Soviet vessels by U.S. naval vessels. It is understood Soviet vessels will cooperate in this procedure.

As a result of aerial reconnaissance, the U.S. has photographs which indicate that all known MRBM and IRBM missile bases in Cuba have been dismantled. Later photographs indicate the movement of significant items of equipment from the missile sites to port areas. Still later photographs give evidence that a substantial number of missile transporters have been loaded onto

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the main decks of certain Soviet cargo vessels and that several of these vessels have already departed Cuban ports. Photographs and visual inspection from U.S. naval vessels should provide further confirmation that the actual missiles (normally carried in the missile transporters that have been photographed on board these vessels) have left Cuba.

Intensive discussions are continuing with respect to the other provisions of the understanding between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev.

DRAFT FOLLOWS

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

The U. S. Government has confirmed, through aerial reconnaissance, that Medium Range Ballistic Missile and Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile equipment is being removed from Cuba in partial fulfillment of the commitment made by Chairman Khrushchov to President Kannady. Beginning today, it expects to obtain additional confirmation through the close alongside observation of Soviet vessels by U. S. naval vessels. Beviot vessels are cooperating in this attack.

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Intensive discussions are continuing with respect to the other provisions of the commitment. These are being hampered by the refusal thus far of the Cuban Government to cooperate with the United Nations in order that it may carry out the necessary measures of verifications & attack to frame against the reinterdention The state of the s

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The United States Government is in possession of the following information relating to MR.BM and RRM equipment placed in Cuba:

(i) Through sorial recommusations it has been dehugges termined that all/IRBM and MRBM sites in Cube have been dismunied.

(2) Through serial recommusestate it has been accera sumber of Comm
trined that this equipment has been moved to With perts, particularly
Marial and Casilda where it has been leaded on nine Seviet ships
which are now underway from Cuba and sailing in the direction of the
Seviet Union.

Photos of the dismantied sites have proviously been made available by the United States government. Concurrent with the issuence of this release this Government is making available low-level reconnessiance photographs following the assembly and loading of missiel equipment and missible absend Seviet ships in the Mariel and Casilda ports.

Through arrangements worked out between the United States and the Soviet governments verification of the outgoing shipment of missile and missile equipment have been made by the United States nevel weeks at a point some 460 miles aorthonor of Cuba.

The first such intercept was made at 3:30 p.m., EST, today when the USS PERRY, a neval destroyer, went alongside the cargo slip VOLCOLES and established the placement of seven milk missiles on the dock of that skip. Photographs were taken by Skry pursuant and they will be released as seen as they are flown to the United States.

in addition the Defence Department has made prelievy visions for flying a limited symbor of newmon to U.S. May aldpa in the Caribbean later tonight for further observation of naval intercepts during the day terrerrow. These reporters and photographers will act as a peak for the Aum steam and fereign press.

intensive discussions are continuing in New York with respect to other previsions of the understanding. These include failure to dismantic a summan number of II.-24 modium-range benchers which have been assembled at the St. Fulion Milles Airfield in western Cuba. Further discussions on stands the U.S.-Seriel understanding are being hampered by the remain thusiar of the Cuban government to cooperate with the United Nations in order that that it may carry out the necessary measures for varification and establish sufeguards against reintroduction of offensive weapons.

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Intensive discussions are continuing with respect to the other provisions of the commitment. These are being hampered by the refusal thus far of the Cuban Government to cooperate with the United Nations in order that it may carry out the necessary measures of verification.

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